United Nations S/2002/1102

# Security Council

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## Letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September, a letter dated 27 August 2002 from Maria Brizuela de Avila, Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of August, setting forth the position of the Government of El Salvador on the letters submitted to the Council by the Government of Honduras concerning execution of the judgement of the International Court of Justice of 1992 on the boundary dispute between El Salvador and Honduras (see annex).

Acting on instructions from my Government, I am requesting that the said letter be issued as a document of the Security Council. To that end a copy of that letter is enclosed.

(*Signed*) Guillermo A. **Meléndez**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

02-61727 (E) 031002 031002

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## Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Letter dated 27 August 2002 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write you in your capacity as President of the Security Council with regard to the notes dated 22 January 2002 and 11 March 2002 submitted by the Government of the Republic of Honduras (S/2002/108 and S/2002/251) concerning the execution of the judgement of the International Court of Justice of 11 September 1992.

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador, mindful as always of its international responsibilities and fully and genuinely committed to the integration of the Central American region, affirms that at no time has it failed to abide by its international commitments. Although it considers that there is no reason whatsoever why the Security Council should be bothered with alleged problems stemming from the execution of a complex judgement, the solution to which must be sought through negotiations between the Parties involved, if the Security Council deems it appropriate, the Government of the Republic of El Salvador has no objection to the Council's considering the request submitted by the Government of the Republic of Honduras in the aforesaid communications.

(*Signed*) M. E. **Brizuela de Avila**

## Appendix

### Press release 178/2002 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

### El Salvador takes action on the boundary issue in accordance with international law

Given that nearly 10 years have elapsed since the International Court of Justice, at The Hague, issued its judgement on September 1992 in the case concerning El Salvador and Honduras, the Government of the Republic of El Salvador reiterates that it gives priority, in relations with its neighbours, to building a genuine Central American project aimed at the overall development of the region.

We have chosen to settle our differences by means of dialogue and international law and we are working together on a binational agenda that ranges from joint demarcation — a process that we are committed to advancing binationally — to projects concerning future integration, such as a customs union, an electricity grid and the negotiation of free trade agreements with our main trading partners.

This generation of Central Americans inherited the boundary disputes and the Government of El Salvador is adopting on this issue a position of full responsibility and of strict adherence to international law.

According to the judgement of 1992, El Salvador has the option to request a review of the judgement, provided it does so within 10 years; the 10 years will be up on 11 September 2002. El Salvador has never renounced this right and it has repeatedly stated that it wishes to exercise that right as and when stipulated in the judgement. Since we propose to exercise our legitimate rights, there is no further source of dispute or disagreement between us and the Republic of Honduras.

Accordingly, the President of the Republic and the Minister for Foreign Affairs are the only officials authorized to provide information or to express an opinion on this issue, and they will do so when it is deemed to be in the country's interest.

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador reaffirms its commitment to inform the media at the appropriate time, with prudence and strictly in accordance with the rules of international law, in particular within the context of the International Court of Justice.

Any information on this matter coming from unauthorized persons, particularly from anonymous sources, shall be considered to be speculative and potentially harmful to the interests of our country in its relations with the Republic of Honduras.

San Salvador, 2 September 2002